

Hawaii MARINE

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VOLUME 34, NUMBER 48

WWW.MCBH.USMC.MIL

DECEMBER 3, 2004

1/3 aids Iraqi people

BLT, local forces begin humanitarian operations

Lance Cpl. Will Lathrop
1st Marine Division

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Marines with the forward exploitation team, Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, attached to the 1st Marine Division from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, in conjunction with Iraqi Intervention Force, 2nd Battalion, and elements of the relief organization, set the pace for assisting in humanitarian assistance operations in Fallujah Nov. 27.

Starting early in the morning, the Iraqi-led relief effort consisted of the Marines providing security in the streets while officials from an organization similar to the Red Cross found Iraqi families and offered to provide assistance.

A 24-hour curfew imposed by the Iraqi interim government meant citizens were not

allowed to roam the streets, so the head of each family was escorted into an Iraqi transport truck to take the civilians to the IRC compound. The Iraqis were given food, water, small cooking stoves and blankets to fight the oncoming winter months.

"We're in the humanitarian aid portion of the operation, giving families food, blankets and medical supplies," said Sgt. John A. Rybicki, a 22-year-old Buffalo, N.Y. native and radio operator with the FET. "We're still conducting safety operations to make it safe for the civilians to return to their homes."

The Marines and the Iraqi troops assisted the families in loading the supplies onto the trucks, and then transported them all in a convoy with security provided by the Iraqi troops and the Marines'

See AID, A-8



Lance Cpl. Will Lathrop

Sgt. John A. Rybicki, a Buffalo, N.Y. native and radio operator for Forward Exploitation Team, assists Iraqi citizens in loading supplies given to them by the Iraqi Red Crescent Society. The BLT worked hand-in-hand with Iraqi troops and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society in providing food, medicine and blankets to the people of Fallujah.



Sgt. Clinton Firstbrook

After breaching a wall for the Marines of 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1/3, to run through, Lance Cpl. Evan Fernandez fires another MK-153 SMAW Rocket Launcher round into a suspected insurgent stronghold while Cpl. Steven Ulloa looks on.

Assaultmen keep operation in Fallujah moving

Sgt. Clinton Firstbrook

1st Marine Expeditionary Force

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Running down the streets of Fallujah to their next objective, Marines come to a barrier blocking their point of entry and shout, "ASSAULT!" Three Marines alongside second squad sprint up to the front line, taking a knee behind a pile of rubble. KABOOM! A 5-foot hole for the Marines to climb through now lies in the center of the wall.

When the line troops encounter an

obstacle, they call for the assault team to clear the way. Armed with an 88-mm MK-153 SMAW (Shoulder-Launched Multipurpose Assault Weapon) Rocket Launcher and various demolitions, very few items can stand up to their firepower.

"The platoon feels a lot better about going in to clear a building after they've shot a round inside," said 1st Lt. Travis Fuller, the 3rd Platoon commander for Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. "Any building we've had to enter or breach we used our assaultmen. They've been a huge asset."

Because every situation calls for specific actions, the assault team carries three types of rounds, each weighing 13 pounds: the anti-armor round, which can penetrate 20 to 24 inches of homogeneous steel; the dual mode round, which can penetrate 7 feet of sand, 12 inches of brick or 8 inches of concrete; and the N-E (noval explosive) rounds, which explode into a fireball, incinerating everything inside.

"We're the big guns of the company,"

See ASSAULT, A-8

Toys for Tots gears up for the holidays

Sgt. Jereme L. Edwards

Press Chief

Christmas cheer is all around us and decorations are popping up everywhere, but for the less fortunate, Christmas isn't always full of joy. The Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program helps ensure no child goes without a gift.

"What we do is collect new unwrapped toys for all gender children from infant up to 18 years of age," said Gunnery Sgt. Todd Manning, Toys for Tots coordinator for the state of Hawaii, with 4th Force Reconnaissance here. "The program basically helps out needy children whose family may not be able to get them toys for Christmas due to financial reasons."

Toys for Tots is a holiday campaign that relies on the spirit of giving whether it is a toy or your time. "It's easy for a Marine to volunteer because all they have to do is put on their blues and we can give them an event to work," said Manning. "For family members and civilians, though, we could really use the help in the warehouse, sorting and segregating the toys by age and gender."

Manning and other Marines who participate in the program are all firm believers the program is for a very worthy cause. "Toys for Tots is about helping needy kids. Everybody likes to get gifts for Christmas."

See TOYS, A-4

ICE gives outlet for feedback

New site allows patrons to rate base services

Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Sports Editor

With the hope of receiving more feedback from customers, MCB Hawaii is a new participant in the Office of Secretary of Defense sponsored Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) System. This program is Web-based and may be accessed from any computer. The ICE site allows the customer to provide feedback, whether positive or negative, regarding the services provided by MCB Hawaii.

The ICE system is also used by the Army, Navy and Air Force, and is designed to improve service, and provide leadership with timely data

on customer service and satisfaction.

"It allows us to get feedback from our customers, both internal and external," said Sharon Zauner, the ICE site manager for MCB Hawaii. "We will use the comments we receive to help shape our services, businesses and office operations."

The site provides various service categories to choose from. There are currently more than 190 listings of service providers located here.

Patrons are encouraged to submit the online comment card for the service providers utilized and rate the services they have received aboard MCB Hawaii. Their feedback regarding the service providers will be used to achieve the quality of excellence that the patrons deserve.

According to Zauner, this new site provides customers with a convenient and more efficient

method to express their opinions to providers and receive feedback.

Each service provider will have a manager who is responsible for receiving comment card notifications and responding to those patrons who request feedback.

This ICE site also allows customers to rate service providers of other DoD facilities around the world. The ICE home page allows the customer to choose the organization and installation they are looking for and navigate to the appropriate service provider with relative ease.

"It is set up for the customer's ease, not ours. OSD has gone to great pains to ensure that it stays that way," said Zauner.

For more information, check it out at ice.disa.mil.



Pace welcomes 3/3 to Afghanistan

Lance Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Combat Correspondent

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan — Amid the whirlwind first weeks in the United States' Central Command Area of Responsibility in Afghanistan, the Marines and Sailors of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment were welcomed to Salerno Sunday.

On hand to greet the Marines was Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Peter Pace, who flew into Salerno on a regularly scheduled tour of the area.

During a command and staff meeting, Pace was briefed on the specifics of 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment's activity over the last seven months in Afghanistan.

While operating in Afghanistan, 3/6 logged over two thousand combat patrols and count-



PACE

less humanitarian assistance projects exceeding \$600,000. With the help of the Army's Provincial Reconstruction Teams and their dedication to security and support operations, 3/6 was able to continue the Coalition Force's effective campaign to stabilize Afghanistan and promote the first presidential election in the nation's history.

"You should be leaving here with a feeling of enormous pride," said the general to 3/6's command. Pace expressed his firm belief that 3/3 would continue the positive trend and be

instrumental in the success of the upcoming Afghan parliamentary elections.

Pace continued, saying he was envious of the Marines on the ground during this war. He expressed how pleased he was by their effectiveness in dealing with a difficult enemy in Afghanistan's tactically challenging environment and how much better he could understand their situation after seeing it firsthand.

"I really appreciate the opportunity to get out here and see what you're doing," said Pace, while meeting with the command and staff of 3/6 and America's Battalion 3/3. "I wish I could be a platoon or company commander during this fight, but it makes a world of difference to be able to sit in front of Congress and say, 'I was there last week.'"

See PACE, A-8

News Briefs

Christmas Tree Lighting

The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held Sunday at 5:30 p.m. at Dewey Square. Brig. Gen. George J. Trautman III, base commanding general, will oversee the tree lighting. The Marine Forces Pacific Band will be performing.

Base Flagpole Ceremony

The Kaneohe Klippers Association and MCB Hawaii will conduct a morning colors ceremony in honor of the 63rd anniversary of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Naval Air Station Kaneohe Bay. The remembrance will begin at 8 a.m. Tuesday at the base flagpole.

Community Meeting Postponed

The commanding general's informational meeting scheduled for Dec. 15 has been postponed until further notice.

McDonald's To Rebuild

On Dec. 31, McDonald's aboard Kaneohe Bay will close for approximately 120 days, when the existing building will be torn down and construction will begin on a new structure.

Oahu Star to Print over Holidays

The *Hawaii Marine* will publish its last issue of the year on Dec. 10. Residents will receive the *Oahu Military Star* as a replacement for three weeks. To submit input for the publication, send information to editor@hawaiimarine.com. The *Hawaii Marine* will resume printing Jan. 7, 2005.

Base Post Office Extends Hours

To better serve the community during the Christmas season, the MCBH Post Office will be open for extended holiday hours until Dec. 23. The hours of operation will be Mon. – Fri. from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Sat. from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you have questions, please call the MCB Hawaii Post Office at 257-2008.

Mokapu Gate Lanes Change

Both inbound and outbound traffic through the Mokapu (back) gate are using the incoming lanes only to allow construction work to be done on the outbound lanes as part of the final phase of the Mokapu gate improvements project. By Christmas, all traffic lanes should be reopened and normal traffic patterns restored.

CG Invites Input

The commanding general of MCB Hawaii would like to hear your comments regarding:

- What we are doing we shouldn't be doing;
- What we are not doing we should be doing; and
- What we should be doing better.

Your responses should include a recommended solution.

E-mail your suggestions to the commanding general at CGMAIL@mcbh.usmc.mil.

If you don't have an e-mail account, fax your suggestions to 257-3290, or mail them to: Commanding General (Attn: CG Mail) MCB Hawaii Box 63002 MCB Kaneohe Bay, HI 96863-3002

Your suggestions can also be dropped off in person on base at the Adjutant's office in Building 216, Room 1.

PWMA Accepts Brick Orders

Due to continued interest in the "Walkway of Honor" bricks located at the Pacific War Memorial adjacent the entrance to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, the Pacific War Memorial Association is accepting orders online at www.PacificWarMemorial.org, or call 533-3759. Orders will be accepted until Dec. 15.

Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380

Hawaii MARINE

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Staff Writer	Lance Cpl. Rich Mattingly
Lifestyles Editor	Susana Choy
News Editor	Kristin Herrick

The *Hawaii Marine* is an unofficial newspaper published every Friday by MidWeek Printing, Inc., 45-525 Luluku Road, Kaneohe, HI 96744, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Marine Corps, under exclusive contract to the U.S. Marine Corps. This civilian enterprise is an authorized publication for members of the military services.

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Editorial content or public service announcements (i.e., all content other than paid advertisements) is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Opinions expressed are not to be considered an official expression of the DoD or the U.S. Marine Corps.

Submit items for the *Hawaii Marine* to PAO no later than noon on the Friday prior to publication, using the following addresses:

HAWAII MARINE, BOX 63062, BLDG. 216, MCB HAWAII, KANEOHE BAY, HAWAII 96863
E-MAIL: EDITOR@HAWAIIIMARINE.COM
FAX: 257-1289, PHONE: 257-8836

Commanding General's Environmental Policy Statement



TRAUTMAN

As the Commanding General, Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), I am dedicated to maintaining facilities and providing services that support readiness and global projection of our operating forces. We must be committed to environmental excellence, ensuring responsible stewardship of our land and resources in order to sustain our operations and training.

MCBH will continually improve its environmental performance through a systematic environmental management program, which will be an integral part of our day-to-day decision-making and long term planning process. We will continue

to assess our activities to determine their impact on the environment and actively seek opportunities to improve our environmental management.

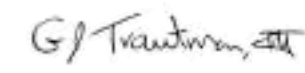
The public relies on us to protect natural and cultural resources. I consider this an issue of special trust and confidence. We will meet this challenge with dedication and focus to conserve the natural and cultural resources with which we have been entrusted.

MCBH will integrate a pollution prevention ethic into all activities through source reduction, resource recovery and recycling. Sound pollution prevention practices improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations while preserving the environment.

We will continue to maintain strong community relations by partnering with our neighbors and regulatory agencies to enhance stewardship of the environment,

create goodwill and build trust. The environment affects everyone. Our goal, therefore, is to work with all the people of Hawaii through this partnership to the mutual benefit of everyone.

Compliance with environmental laws is critical to maintaining our readiness. I ask that each Marine, Sailor, family member, or individual, no matter what your capacity at MCBH, take responsibility to comply with environmental laws, regulations and policies to ensure that we have done all that we can to meet our responsibility of good stewardship of our environment.


G. J. TRAUTMAN, III
Brigadier General,
United States Marine Corps
Commanding General,
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

National Park Service to remember Pearl Harbor

Press Release

U.S. National Park Service

The National Park Service will hold its 63rd annual Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration Tuesday, from 7:45 to 9 a.m. This year's theme is "Voices of Pearl Harbor." The ceremony will be held at the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center. The program is free of charge and open to the public. General seating will begin at 7:30 a.m. and the program will commence promptly at 7:45 a.m. Attendees should allow an extra 15 minutes for parking and security. The civilian dress code is aloha crisp attire. Military dress is summer whites or service dress equivalent with ribbons, no medals.

Author and U.S. Naval Institute Historian Paul Stillwell will be the keynote speaker. Hawaii Senator Daniel K. Inouye will be the honorary speaker and Dr. Ronald Sugar, Chairman, CEO, and President of Northrop Grumman Corporation and National Chairman of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund will be the special guest speaker.

The remembrance service will include military music selections, Morning Colors, a prayer of remembrance, wreath presentation, Hawaiian blessing, rifle salute, and TAPS. A moment of silence will be held with the USS Chung-Hoon passing in review. In addition, the Hawaii Air National Guard will perform a missing man flyover.

USS Arizona Memorial Tour

Tours to the USS Arizona Memorial on Tuesday will begin at 10 a.m. The program is 75-minutes in duration with free tickets issued on a first-come, first-served basis. The last program is at 3 p.m. The program consists of a 23-minute documentary film and a U.S. Navy water taxi ride to the USS Arizona Memorial. There will be no transportation to the memorial during the ceremony.



Special Tours

The National Park Service cordially invites the general public to participate in one of two special Pearl Harbor tours. The narrated one-hour boat tours will take visitors around historic Ford Island. All boats will depart from the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center.

This program is offered separately from the normal park program. There will be no disembarking points during the tour. Advanced registration is required. Deadline for signing up is 3 p.m. today. To register, call 955-1931, ext.3. Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants may sign-up for only one tour as space is limited.

Park Ranger Skip Wheeler presents: "From Fishponds to Battleships" Tuesday — 10 a.m.

Travel through time from the geologic formation of Pearl Harbor to its importance to native Hawaiians and subsequently, to its strategic significance to the U.S. military. Discover how the history of Pearl Harbor extends far beyond Dec. 7, 1941. There will be no stop at the USS Arizona Memorial.

Park Ranger Neal Niiyama presents: "Keeping Their Memories Alive" Tuesday — 11 a.m.

The "Day of Infamy" tells not only the

story of duty, honor and sacrifice, but also about family, forgiveness and gratitude. Discover this story of how both American and Japanese military survivors of December 7, 1941, experienced and remembered that day. There will be no stop at the USS Arizona Memorial.

Book Signing

A series of nationally renowned author book signings will be hosted by the Arizona Memorial Museum Association at the USS Arizona Memorial Bookstore through Dec. 16:

Paul Stillwell — Author and historian Monday — 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Tuesday — 9:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Paul Stillwell is considered to be one of the foremost naval historians in the country. Mr. Stillwell focused his interest on Pearl Harbor and the USS Arizona in authoring two publications for the Naval Institute Press. He currently serves as the Director of History for the U.S. Naval Institute in Annapolis, Maryland.

"Air Raid: Pearl Harbor!" recaptures the experiences that moved a nation to action and presents them from the perspectives of a cross section of the people involved: forty-seven participants, some of whom were in Hawaii, others in Washington, the Philippine Islands, Tokyo and at sea. This collection of first-person narratives, nearly half of which are published here for the first time, recounts the events as they took place. "Battleship Arizona: An Illustrated History," considered by many experts to be the definitive book on the USS Arizona, contains a full history and pictorial of the famous warship's twenty-five year career, from its keel laying in 1914 to U.S. Navy life

See *PEARL HARBOR, A-6*

Word on the street

What is the strangest thing you've ever eaten?



Petty Officer 2nd Class Daniel Hamilton
Machinist Mate
MALS-24

"Probably a snake would be the strangest thing I've ever eaten."



Lance Cpl. Dante Wimberly
Administration Clerk
2/3

"I ate octopus one time."



Cpl. Arthur Wood
Weather
MCAF

"I ate half of a shoe one time for a bet."



Cpl. John Hawkins
Food Service Specialist
3rd Marine Regiment

"Sushi. The salmon eggs were strange enough for me."



Lance Cpl. Brady Jones
Radio Technician
Maintenance Company, CSSG- 3

"I ate a snail before, that was pretty strange."

Monitors ready give annual career advice

Master Sgt. Patrick O. Buckley
Base Career Planner

The Manpower Management Enlisted Assignments Marines from U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters (MMEA), Washington, will arrive on Oahu for their annual visit Jan. 5–6, 2005.

"It's important for Marines to meet with their monitor face to face so that the Marine and monitor can plan not only the Marine's future assignment, but the Marine's career as well," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Joee Elisara., the Career Retention Specialist NCOIC for Marine Force Pacific. "Taking advantage of this opportunity will be (beneficial) to the Marine because he can voice his preferences, concerns, issues, etc., in person vice e-mail or telephone."

During the individual interviews, each Marine can request a preferred next duty assignment, according to Elisara. The monitors look at the Marine's preferences, or "wish list," along with other factors, the biggest being the needs of the Marine Corps. The monitor then assigns the Marine to the best possible assignment.

The Marine also can voice spe-

cial circumstances, issues and concerns, such as having a family member with special needs, or a desire to attend a special school or training, etc.

"Sitting down with the monitor personalizes the long list of names they see on their rosters day in and day out," explained Sgt Byrne, the Career Retention Specialist here.

This visit is part of the worldwide tour that MMEA Marines, or monitors, conduct every year to communicate with enlisted Marines, according to Staff Sgt. Derald Nash, NCOIC of 3rd Marine Regiment Career Retention Specialists

Marines can speak to military occupation specialty monitors, and special assignment (MSG and DI duty) monitors who will conduct interviews at the BOQ Conference room here, on either of the two days. About twenty monitors, representing well over a hundred military occupation specialties, will be available.

Elisara added that appointments on a first-come basis will be kept to 10-15 minutes to allow maximum participation. Spouses are encouraged to accompany their sponsors during the interviews.

See *MONITORS, A-6*

DUIs are career killers

(Editor's Note: Per the commanding general of MCB Hawaii, those arrested for driving under the influence [DUI], driving while intoxicated or drug-related offenses shall be publicized in the *Hawaii Marine* newspaper.)

- Nov. 25, Cpl. Dustin M. Andrews of 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment for driving under the influence with a blood alcohol content of .14 percent.
- Nov. 25, an MCCS employee, for DUI with a BAC of .18 percent.

- Nov. 26, Cpl. Christopher R. McKinney of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, for DUI with a BAC of .09 percent.
- Nov. 28, Staff Sgt. William M. Davis of 4th Force Reconnaissance, for DUI after refusing a BAC test.



Marines with 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, stand watch as another squad leaves on foot to patrol the streets of Fallujah.

Attaining the Objective

Fallujah protected, from top to bottom

Story and Photos by
Sgt. Clinton Firstbrook
1 Marine Expeditionary Force

FALLUJAH, Iraq — During urban operations in Fallujah, a senior enlisted Marine commented on the performance of his company, saying no matter how much technology or manpower is on the battlefield, the Corps will always be able to take care of business because of the strength and determination, inherent in all Marines.

“The only thing that can drive a man to accomplish the task at hand and keep going, day in and day out, is *esprit de corps*,” said 1st Sgt. Michael Farrell, first sergeant for Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. “Today, it’s as strong as it was on Tarawa, Iwo Jima, Okinawa; the list goes on and on,” said the 43-year-old Stratford, Conn., native. “As long as we have our *esprit de corps* we’ll always win the tough battles.”

On Nov. 8, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment entered Fallujah for Operation Al Fajr to oust all insurgents who were intent on disrupting the reconstruction of Iraq.

Charlie Company had three objectives. The first was Objective Alpha: establish a foothold in the city of Fallujah; the second was Objective Bravo: clear the Al Tawfiq mosque that was a suspected insurgent stronghold; and the third was Objective Charlie: clear the Muhajareen mosque, which was another suspected stronghold for insurgents. 1 Marine Expeditionary Force’s intelligence assessments predicted it would take 96 hours in a worst case scenario, according to Staff Sgt Luis Lopez, 3rd Platoon sergeant. Marines of Charlie Company accomplished their mission



Above — A Marine fires an AT-4 into a building after taking fire from insurgents while his squad looks on.

Below — First Lt. Travis Fuller, the 3rd Platoon commander, directs one of his fire teams to its next move as another squad moves into a stack position before running across an open courtyard.



A machinegunner scans his sector of fire through a hole in the wall as the sun rises over Fallujah.

in only 12 hours.

Third Platoon was the first Charlie Company element to hit the ground. With the aid of night vision goggles, its Marines ran toward their entry point, which they identified on an aerial map of Fallujah taken hours before their departure.

“Once we found the breach, first squad went to the right one street over, and second and third squad went to the left, clearing a building on each side of that street to secure a foothold,” said 26-year-old 1st Lt. Travis Fuller, platoon commander and a Granville, Mass., native.

Minutes later, the streets erupted in gunfire from insurgents positioned in houses on each city block. Tracer rounds and explosions lit up the moonless sky. For six hours, 3rd Platoon fought house by house and street by street toward their second objective. Though the battle was fierce, the Marines kept their minds on accomplishing the mission.

“Everywhere I looked, I saw barrel flashes from AK-47s,” said Lance Cpl. Kaleb Welch, a squad automatic weapon gunner. “It all seemed unreal. I was scared, but I had a job to do,” said the 22-year-old Houston native.

When 3rd Platoon came to the first intersection in the city, its second objective lay a few hundred meters ahead

“We came to a clearing between my squad and the Al Tawfiq mosque, then started taking small arms fire from the roof,” said Cpl. Dave Willis, platoon squad leader. “I radioed in that we were taking fire and requested permission to engage. After I was asked to confirm, a rocket propelled grenade flew over my head

and I said ‘Yes, I’m sure.’ We opened up with machinegun and small arms fire,” said the 21-year-old Springfield, Ore., native. “The insurgents started coming off the rooftop and firing from the courtyard, so I took one of our AT-4s and fired a shot in the middle. After that we didn’t receive any fire from the mosque.”

Once the mosque was neutralized, tanks were called up to support their advance. The Iraqi Army’s 3rd Company, 5th Battalion, 3rd Brigade, then ran up to enter the mosque and clear it of any remaining insurgents. Once secured, 3rd Platoon moved up from their defensive position to charge toward their next objective. Once the pla-



Two Marines with 3rd Platoon provide rooftop security in Fallujah after their squad went in to clear a building from the top down.

toon reached the courtyard, soldiers with psychological supported the efforts to draw out the enemy.

“All hell broke loose after that,” said Fuller. “Thankfully no one was inside the mosque at the time because two RPG (rocket propelled grenades) rounds flew over the wall surrounding the courtyard and exploded inside.”

As soon as the gunfire slowed, 3rd Platoon took off down the street toward its third objective, the Muhajareen mosque, located 800 meters south of their current position. It was an area still held by insurgents.

“The first left we made, I saw four insurgents fire at us with their AK-47s before running into one of the buildings on the street,” said Lance Cpl. Michael Starr, a breachman. “The next road we had to cross had a large opening that spanned a few hundred feet. I was the first one to run across and I could hear and feel rounds whizzing by,” said the 21-year-old Baltimore native. “All I was thinking about was to take cover once I got across. That was the biggest adrenaline rush I ever had in my life.”

When they reached a skeleton frame of a house still under construction, a block from their third objective, one squad of Marines cleared a building that overlooked the area surrounding the mosque.

“Once the building was clear, I ran to one of the corners on the roof and started scanning left and right, crouching low only when a round ricocheted off the building, but still maintaining contact with my sector of fire,” said Lance Cpl. Jorge Jerez, a squad automatic weapon gunner. “Mortars and RPGs were landing around our block and flying over our position,” said the 23-year-old New York native.

Following 3rd Platoon, the remaining elements of Charlie Company each cleared a building around the Muhajareen mosque, constructing linear “L” shape area, out of which they would operate for the next five days. An hour later, Iraqi soldiers came and cleared their third objective. During the past 12 hours, several Marines with 3rd Platoon received shrapnel wounds, but only three Marines had to be medevaced.

“We’re proud of our Marines’ performance,” said Capt. Tom Tennant, Charlie Company’s commanding officer. “Their bravery was on par with the bravery of those who fought in every historic Marine Corps battle,” said the 32-year-old Bethpage, N.Y., native.

Lance Cpl. William Woolley, a radio operator, crouches low on top of a roof in Fallujah, transmitting messages as AK-47 rounds fly overhead.



HQBN takes plunge

Officers tackle swim qual in full combat gear

Story and Photos by
Sgt. Jereme L. Edwards
Press Chief

A CH-53D Sea Stallion is undergoing a mission around the coast of a known hot spot when incoming enemy fire sends the bird plummeting into the water. You are carrying a full combat load and you’re under heavy fire. Marines around you are panicking and you’re starting to sink. What do you do?



Capt. Albert Calamug, the staff secretary for the commanding general, plunges off the diving platform into the base pool.

Given our amphibious nature, this is a situation many Marines could find themselves in. Luckily for Marines of Headquarters Battalion, this was not the case last week. Instead, they heard, “Step to the edge of the platform, place one hand on top of your head and gain control of your weapon. Look up, look down, look out at the horizon and take a full 30-inch step,” during their swim qualification course held at the base pool.

“I ran swim qual for most of the enlisted Marines who required it during the past couple of weeks,” said Staff. Sgt. Erik Stone, a Marine Corps water survival instructor with 4th Force Reconnaissance. “This week I’m holding the swim qualification from level four to two for the officers in Headquarters Battalion.

“The Marines must complete many various tasks during each of the levels of swim. For level four, it is the basics. They must swim 25 meters using one of the survival strokes, enter the water using the platform 10 feet from the surface while demonstrating the abandon ship technique, and tread water for four minutes using any of the techniques or the blouse flotation.

“As the swim qualification level increases, the level of difficulty for the tasks increases as well,” added Stone.

According to Stone, for level three, Marines must enter shallow water with a rubberized training rifle and while wearing full combat gear. They must walk 20 meters in shallow water with their weapon at port arms and wearing full combat gear; walk 20 meters in chest deep water wearing full gear and their weapon; travel for 20 meters in chest deep water with full gear and their weapon using a modified breast stroke arm movement and modified combat stroke leg movement; travel for 20 meters in deep water using a modified breast stroke arm movement and modified combat stroke leg movement; from height of five feet,



Lt. Col. Robert Lottie, deputy G-4, swims 25 meters after jumping from the 8-foot platform.

using the abandon ship technique, enter deep water with full gear and weapon, travel 10 meters, remove pack, and travel 15 meters with pack and weapon; from minimum height of 8 feet, using the abandon ship technique and wearing utilities and boots only, enter deep water and travel 25 meters using either one or a combination of three survival strokes.

“[Combat Water Survival 2nd Class] emphasizes assisting a wounded Marine by utilizing the buddy carry method, which is done by simulating a river crossing,” said Stone. “One Marine uses both packs to float on as the other tows him to safety by holding on with one arm and using one of the survival strokes to propel himself and his buddy to shore.”

The Marines who participated in the swim qualification course agreed swim qualification is a necessity when it comes to being a Marine.



Marines with Headquarters Battalion, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, swim across the base pool using their packs as floating aids.

“We are amphibious by nature,” said Maj. Thomas McCann, Staff Judge Advocate here. “This training is something that all Marines must do. It gets us familiar with our gear and ensures that we are able and capable of surviving in the water and doing our jobs.”

Stone also offered some advice for those who may be a little apprehensive about swim qual.

“The first thing is you must become comfortable being in the water,” he said. “A lot of people may say a lot of other things come first, but if you’re not comfortable in the water and your focus is on trying not to go under the water, you’re not focusing on doing the techniques properly.”

TOYS, From A-1

It’s more of an emotional uplifting thing for kids,” said Manning. “They see everyone getting toys and they may not get a toy, and Toys for Tots allows that child not to feel left out and enjoy a happy childhood.”

Toys for Tots began in 1947 when reserve Maj. Bill Hendricks, and a group of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children.

According to the TFT Web site, the idea came from Hendricks’ wife, Diane. In the fall of 1947, Diane handcrafted a Raggedy Ann doll and asked her husband to deliver the doll to an organization, which would give it to a needy child at Christmas. When Hendricks determined no agency existed, he decided to start one. Thus began the history of the Toys for Tots program.

The 2003 Toys for Tots campaign was the most successful campaign in

the 56-year history of the Program. Marines distributed 15 million toys to 6.5 million needy children. Local campaigns were conducted in 456 communities covering all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. This was the most extensive coverage ever.

Over the 56 years of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, Marines have distributed more than 313 million toys to 151 million children. This charitable endeavor has made the U.S. Marines the leaders in looking after needy children at Christmas. Over its 13-year life, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation has supplemented the collections of local campaigns with more than 47.3 million toys valued at \$243 million, plus has provided promotion and support materials valued at \$2.5 million.

To find out more about the Toys For Tots program, log on to www.toysfortots.org.



Susana Choy

Kaneohe Bay Marines will once again be collecting gifts this holiday season during the annual Toys for Tots drive.

Worship Services Schedule – MCB Hawaii Chapel 2004 Holiday Programs

- Dec. 8**
11:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. — RC Holy Day — Immaculate Conception
- Dec. 13**
7 p.m. — RC Penance Service
- Dec. 14**
5 p.m. — Christmas Caroling at Mokapu Mall
- Dec. 19**
3 p.m. — Children’s Christmas Program/Party
- Dec. 24**
6 p.m. — Protestant Candlelight Service
7:30 p.m. — RC Mass
11:30 p.m. — RC Midnight Mass
- Dec. 25**
9:30 a.m. — Christmas Day Mass
- Jan. 1, 2005**
9:30 a.m. — New Year’s Day Mass

Deployed service members could face PTSD

Cpl. Jared Plotts
U.S. Marine Forces Pacific

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — More than 20 percent of Marines exposed to a combat environment, like the ongoing operations being conducted in the Middle East, are likely to develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

What Marines and Sailors should know is that what they feel and how they react to situations they come across during the ongoing war on terrorism are normal and expected.

When those feelings and reactions go unaddressed, problems can arise for Marines, Sailors and their families, according to Navy Capt. Henry Nixon, force chaplain, here.

The Marine Forces Pacific “team” goal is to provide Marines coming back from this war with every opportunity to get the care and support they deserve.

The team effort between the force surgeon, chaplain, safety officer and the Marine Corps Family Team Building Program, work hand in hand to handle the re-deployment and post-deployment effort.

Marines are helped along with what is called “Warrior Transition” while still in theater. Warrior transition encourages Marines to think about what they’ve been through and allows them to discuss what they’ve heard, felt, witnessed and thought.

Once Marines are back in garrison they are exposed to warrior transition follow-up. This time, they talk about what it’s like to be home and how they feel about the war. Quite often what happens at home becomes the triggering event for negative behavior. Marines and Sailors can have trouble readjusting to their jobs and relationships in a noncombat environment.

The first level of PTSD is called “brief combat stress reaction,” which takes place in theater like fire-fights and sudden offensives. The second level pertains to any negative behavioral changes in theater. The third level, called “post trauma stress,” is the most critical stage. It can occur any time between a few months or even years after returning.

Some indicators of PTSD include problems sleeping, becoming distant with friends and family, frequent nervousness and anxiety. More symptoms can be found at the National Center for PTSD’s Web site at www.ncptsd.org.

“These reactions can range from slight behavioral changes to extreme signs like increased alcohol consumption, and experimenting with drugs,” said Nixon.

The little things the MarForPac team can’t see are the ones that need the most attention. “It’s the [once] loving, attentive father or mother who now doesn’t want to be bothered by their spouse or children,” said Nixon.

He continued, “They’re always around us, but are almost accepted as the norm and we don’t really raise an eyebrow until it hits close to home. It’s our intent that Marines understand it’s OK and it’s not going to impact



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

It may seem like a fellow Marine is tired or recovering from PT, but in reality they could be suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Awareness and communication with fellow Marines in the work place helps boost morale and prevent difficult situations.

their career or change how they’re perceived, if they seek help.”

What can affect their career is when they don’t talk about what’s on their mind and “act out” instead.

“They may blame their spouse, children or their job, but the fact is, they didn’t feel it was safe, cool or all right to just drop by the chaplain’s office and say, ‘You got a minute?’,” said Nixon.

He added, “God knows it takes a lot of courage for these young men and women to do what they do, but as much courage as that takes, it takes almost as much to say to a chaplain or counselor, ‘Do you have a minute,’ because that’s the first step toward recovery.”

Nixon also said one of the realities we all have to face is we can’t expect these heroic service members to return and act exactly the same.

“You don’t work at getting things back to ‘normal.’ You work at establishing a new norm.

What’s important is to encourage them to talk and above all, be patient,” said Nixon.

“If we don’t take this head-on and work feverishly to follow the spirit of the commander’s intent, which is to educate all leaders on PTSD and provide the care and support these heroes deserve, if we fail to do that, the extremes can become frequent and newsworthy.”

Nixon said the guidance of the commander has shaped the manner in which teams will provide care and support for forward deployed Marines and Sailors for years to come. The level of awareness is very high and feedback from unit leaders is invaluable.

He closed by saying, “The fact we’ve got the force surgeon, chaplain, psychiatrist, safety officer, and Marine Corps Family Team Building Program working together for the benefit of the Marines and Sailors coming back is phenomenal.”

Frequently Asked Questions

What treatments are available for PTSD?

Elements common to many treatment modalities for PTSD include education, exposure, exploration of feelings and beliefs, and coping skills training. Additionally, the most common treatment modalities include cognitive-behavioral treatment, pharmacotherapy and psychodynamic treatment.

How do I locate specialists or support groups for PTSD?

Service Members can utilize Marine Corps Family Team Building, which synchronizes six family readiness programs: Key Volunteer Network, Lifestyle Insights, Networking, Knowledge & Skills, Chaplains’ Religious Enrichment Operation, Prevention & Relationship Enhancement Program, Spouses’ Leadership Seminar and Base Action Committee. The MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay Office is located in building 216 and is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 257-2410/2584 for an appointment or with questions.

Nationally, contact any of the following organizations; they all have referral capabilities: Anxiety Disorders Association of America (240) 485-1001; American Psychological Association (800) 964-2000; NAMI (800) 950-6264

Also, local Mental Health Services office (found in the Yellow Pages) should be able to provide assistance.

I am an American Veteran. Who do I contact for help with PTSD?

You can contact your local VA Hospital or Veterans Center or call the VA Health Benefits Service Center toll-free at (877)

HSL-37 commands the high seas

Detachment stops drug smugglers

Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Sports Editor

Reminiscent of Sinbad or Black Beard the Pirate, Detachment Three of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 37, known as “The Pirates of the Caribbean,” returned to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, on Nov. 12, after six months of traveling and “pillaging” the South Seas and completing counter-narcotics operations with the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Sailors were deployed to the Eastern Pacific off the coast of South America and the Caribbean on the USS Crommelin from May through November. They were responsible for locating, interdicting and apprehending drug smugglers in that area of responsibility.

“They had one of the most successful counter-narcotic detachments in the history of the Navy,” said Navy Cmdr. Patrick Molenda, the commanding officer of HSL-37. “It is amazing to see what the dedication, drive and enthusiasm of a unit can accomplish. The success of



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Petty Officer 3rd Class James Welbaum, an aviation electrician with Detachment 3, HSL-37, performs maintenance on a SH60-B Seahawk following the final inspection.

these operations makes us understand what we do can make a difference.”

According to Navy Lt. Cmdr. Brian Gebo, the officer-in-charge of Detachment Three, the detachment would receive intelligence on a location where suspect vessels were sighted. The Sailors would then track the vessel covert-

ly, while waiting for the order to board. A law enforcement unit with the Coast Guard would board the vessel at night with the help of the Pirates of the Caribbean.

Using SH60-B Seahawks, the Sailors would stop the vessel by lowering the helicopter in front of it, and then secure it there until the drug smugglers were apprehended.

“We had the third largest drug bust in the history of the Joint Interagency Task Force South — about 10.7 metric tons of cocaine, which we seized from a Columbian fishing vessel about 600 miles west of the Galapagos Islands,” said Gebo. “During the entire cruise we stopped about 23 metric tons of cocaine from reaching the States, which is equivalent to about a billion dollars of narcotics.

“We were ... able to capitalize on the advanced intelligence in that area, and contin-

ue the War on Drugs,” he continued. “Although the War on Drugs is not on the forefront of the news right now, it is still of major importance. We were able to actually see the tangible effects of our work by keeping a significant amount of drugs off the streets and that is important to me as a father, service member and citizen of this nation.”

The detachment flew more than 770 flight hours in the six-month time period, averaging three events a day, at three hours apiece.

Altogether, the detachment apprehended seven go-fasts, which are 40-foot speedboats, and two logistic support vessels, and interdicted 93 Ecuadorian illegal immigrants on their way to the United States.

The Sailors returned them safely to Ecuador.

“It feels good to know that we really made a difference during this deployment,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Darryl Smith, an aviation ordnance technician with Detachment Three, HSL-37. “We helped keep more than a billion dollars of drugs out of the country that would have supported terrorism, and we found and brought home a boat full of refugees who could have possibly sunk out there.”



PEARL HARBOR, From A-2

onboard to riveting stories from the survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Ernest Arroyo — Author
Sunday — 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Dec. 11 — 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

“Pearl Harbor” is a stunning photographic chronicle of the events of Dec. 7, 1941, presenting in large format almost 200 dramatic archival images. Extensive captions offer detailed explanations of each attack phase and its aftermath. Ernest Arroyo is president of the Pearl Harbor History Associates.



Gerald Meehl — Author
Dec. 15 — 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Dec. 16 — 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Candid and deeply personal, the eyewitness accounts in “PACIFIC WAR STORIES” from more than 70 veterans bring to life this lesser known, hugely significant part of World War II history. Anecdotes from men and women from all branches of service reveal unprecedented details of their training and maneuvers, of the life of American servicemen and women overseas, and of the psychological impact of the war — both then and now.

MONITORS, From A-2

A “Family Retention Presentation” that is specifically designed for the enlisted spouse will be held once on the evening of Jan. 5 at the E-Club, 6 – 7 p.m.

MMEA briefings on Jan. 5 at MCB Hawaii Kaneohe Bay, and Jan. 6 at Camp H. M. Smith, will provide information, such as performance evaluation, career development updates, and Marine Security Guard Duty, for the Marines in attendance. Briefing locations will be published via Career Planners as an LOI

to all commands.

During and after the briefings on Jan. 5 – 6, the monitors will be at the BOQ Conference Room interview site to meet with any Marines who want a face-to-face interview with their monitor. Marines need to contact their unit Career Retention Specialist for details.

Meeting with the monitors normally clears all pertinent questions Marines have, but MMEA is aware that not everyone will be seen during base visits. Therefore, Marines can still contact their monitors via e-mail, telephone and regular mail.

Corpsmen risk lives for others

Sgt. Clinton Firstbrook
1 Marine Expeditionary Force

FALLUJAH, Iraq — In combat, Marines place their lives in the hands of the corpsmen who run alongside them. Whether behind a pile of rubble or in an alley under fire, corpsmen are risking their lives to save the lives of Marines and Soldiers in Fallujah.

“No matter what rank you are, you’re known as ‘Doc,’” said Seaman Hugo Lara, a corpsman attached to 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. “We’re always treated as one of their own and are taken care of. Being out here, this is why I became a corpsman. For me, it’s an adrenaline rush,” said the 22-year-old Lakeland, Fla., native. “Care under fire, that’s what we’re doing.”

When “corpsman up” is yelled from the battlefield, these Sailors run to the front lines without hesitation, administering aid to those in need.

“Shrapnel hit my arm and sliced through my pack,” said Lance Cpl. Daniel Sloniker, a squad automatic weapon gunner attached to 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1/3. “I fell into

the Amtrak when I got hit. I knew it wasn’t too bad because I could still move my arm, so I helped set up security when we got out,” said the 20-year-old Lawton, Okla., native. “Before we loaded back up, the corpsman came over and patched me up. Since then, every day he has come over to see how I’m doing and changes the bandage. I know I’m in good hands if I ever get injured again.”

Many Marines also have stories of the corpsmen attached to their platoon and how they helped their squad members survive.

“My fire team and I were entering a building to clear it of insurgents when we took contact,” said Lance Cpl. Matthew Palacios, a combat engineer attached to 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment. “All of us got shot or had shrapnel wounds. I was scared, but the corpsman was there and he said I’d be okay and calmed me down,” said the 19-year-old Lorain, Ohio, native. “He went back and forth between us and made sure everyone would be all right. If he wouldn’t have been there, some of the guys in my fire team might not have made it out alive.”

From the time service members are wounded to when they’re medevaced back to the rear,

the Corpsmen are the ones who are watching over them. The corpsmen’s positive impact is felt both on the battlefield and at the local surgical unit.

“They’re having a huge impact on our operations,” said Lt. Cmdr. Michael Mazurek, a surgeon with Bravo Surgical Company. “Some patients have even come in all ready prepped for the operating table. The corpsmen out in the field are helping us save the lives of those injured even before they arrive to be treated.”

Though they may be trained to tend to the tragedies of war, simulating the emotional stress of a real-life casualty in their arms can never be accomplished.

“There’s nothing that can fully prepare you for a combat environment,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Irving Ochoa, a corpsman attached to 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1/3. “All of the training I received can be applied, but the reality of war can never be imitated. I’ve seen people at their most vulnerable and at their strongest,” said the 23-year-old Longwood, Fla., native. “I’m able to help Marines overcome injuries so they may return to their families. That’s what being a corpsman means to me.”



Sgt. Clinton Firstbrook

Seaman Hugo Lara, a corpsman attached to 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1/3, runs through an entry point with other Marines from 3rd Platoon as they clear a suspected insurgent stronghold.

ASSAULT, From A-1

said Cpl. Steven Ullom, an assault section leader. At negative 183 decibels, the SMAW is the loudest weapon organic to the infantry.”

Because each round carries a deafening blast when fired, the operators’ job has an occupational hazard if the proper precautions aren’t taken.

“If you don’t wear earplugs you’ll go deaf for a while or your ears will start bleeding,” said Ullom.

Working with C-4 and TNT on a daily basis has also taught the Marines some interesting ways to get their job done.

“When it comes to demo, nothing stops us,” said Lance Cpl. Anthony Johnson, 2nd Squad



Sgt. Clinton Firstbrook

Lance Cpl. Evan Fernandez peers over a rooftop with his MK-153 SMAW Rocket Launcher in hand, while taking fire from a building held by insurgents across the street.

assault team leader. “You’re only limited [by] your imagination. If assaultmen are along for the ride, nothing can stop the line. Any obstacle we can take out, no problem.”

Before graduating the School of Infantry as a qualified 0351 assaultman, they have to memorize the weak points of 40 different vehicles.

“There’s a lot of knowledge that goes into being an assaultman,” said Lance Cpl. Evan Fernandez, an assault gunner. “That’s [why] I take pride in my job. We’re the jack-of-all-trades.”

Few Marines carry the firepower that assaultmen fire from their shoulders, which is one reason why some service members are drawn to the military occupation.

“Being able to send a rocket into an enemy stronghold and watch the explosion is the favorite part of my job,” said Fernandez. “It’s fun, but it’s also very important. The line looks to us to take down anything that gets in their way.”

While assaultmen have enough explosives to demolish an entire enemy position, they know the Marines to the right and left ensure their mission accomplishment.

“We’re here to blow stuff up and we love every opportunity to do so, but we couldn’t do our job without the security provided by the guys around us,” said Ullom.

praising their hard work and dedication to the Global War on Terrorism. Meanwhile, the Marines of America’s Battalion were already standing post with their 3/6 counterparts in a “left seat, right seat” routine designed to familiarize 3/3 Marines with the new area of responsibility.

Sergeant of the Guard, Kirk Pusey of Kingston, Jamaica, expressed how imperative it was for him that America’s Battalion starts off on a positive note.

AID, From A-1

HMMWVs.

The supplies and citizens were dropped off at their houses, greeted by their smiling family members waiting for the sundry goods.

“We were able to identify some families that needed help, and we were able to provide that help,” said 1st Lt. Ziad N. Fakhoury, an infantry officer with the BLT. Fakhoury, who also speaks Arabic, has been at the forefront of communicating with Iraqi citizens and soldiers alike. “The civilians in general are grateful for the food and water. We’ve tried to accommodate them as much as possible.”

The initial stages of what Fakhoury sees as a good thing are hindered by the pockets of insurgents remaining in Fallujah. According to Fakhoury, Operation Al Fajr is in the final stages of removing the last of the insurgents, after which engineers and other assets will be able to start rebuilding the city.

“The big thing is working without sacrificing security or endangering people’s lives,” Fakhoury said.

The forward exploitation team for the BLT is a unit that can accomplish a variety of missions. While in Fallujah, the FET has been

“It’s important to be prepared and ready for this transfer of authority,” explained Pusey from his vantage point on the back of an up-armored vehicle during a tour of Salerno’s guard posts. “We’re the first people [Afghans] see when they come to this base, and we have to properly represent who we are and why we’re here.”

Pusey, usually a food service specialist at MCB Hawaii, talked excitedly of getting the opportunity to make a difference for his family



Lance Cpl. Will Lathrop

Lt. Col. Mike Ramos, commanding officer of Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, offers aid to an Iraqi family in Fallujah.

conducting missions such as patrols, searching houses and providing security for the forward units of the battalion.

The BLT is deployed to Iraq as part of the Multi-National Force effort to secure Iraq for the Iraqi interim government and rid the land of insurgents.

and for his country.

“I’m happy to be here and to be doing this,” he said, breaking into an easy smile. “We’re going to give the people of Afghanistan the opportunities they deserve, and we’re going to destroy our enemies.”

After months of training and years of preparation, America’s Battalion plans on continuing its proud traditions, leaving its own distinct mark on the United States’ War on Terrorism and Afghanistan’s progress.